



30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215, Agoura Hills, CA 91301-4316
Tel. 818-597-3407, Fax 818-597-8001, www.aspeneg.com

**PROJECT MEMORANDUM
SCE TRANSMISSION PROJECTS, SEGMENTS 1–11**

To: John Boccio, Project Manager, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: April 8, 2010
Subject: Weekly Reports 114-115 — March 21 to April 3, 2010

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the construction and compliance activities associated with the following SCE transmission projects:

- Antelope-Pardee 500 kV Transmission Project, Segment 1;
- Antelope Transmission Project, Segments 2, 3A and 3B, including the Windhub and Highwind Substations; and
- Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Segments 4 through 11.

A summary of the Notices to Proceed with construction and Variance Request activity are also provided (see Tables 1 and 2, respectively, near the end of this report). Finally, a summary of Temporary Extra Workspace and non-compliance activity are provided in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

CPUC/Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM): Jenny Slaughter

SEGMENT 1: ANTELOPE-PARDEE

Summary of Activity:

1. The relocation of a 66 kV transmission line within the Antelope Substation expansion area continued. A temporary shoofly was constructed in order to maintain service to the line. SCE crews continued with the underground portion of the relocated 66 kV line around the outside of the Antelope Substation expansion area (see Figure 1).
2. Erosion problems have been identified at several locations in Segment 1 including Tower 9, wire stringing site 26, and Tower 99. SCE is working with the contractor's hydrologist to implement erosion repairs at these locations. Some erosion repairs were conducted near Tower 91 including the installation of jute netting and cleaning out a retention basin.
3. Habitat restoration continued in Segment 1. ECORP and Nature's Image are conducting restoration activities including herbicide application, hand pulling of weeds, hand-seeding, and hydroseeding in areas disturbed by construction.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Bird nesting clearance surveys are being conducted in advance of construction or restoration activities as required by adopted mitigation measures. Two new nests were identified in Segment 1, a horned lark nest was found within 30 feet of the 66 kV underground work at the Antelope Substation expansion area and a great horned owl nest was located within the Antelope Substation. Previously identified nests in Segment 1: red tailed hawk nests in Tower 9 and Tower 91, and a common raven nest in Tower 22. Work within 300 feet of active nests requires approval from CDFG. One potential burrowing owl burrow was identified within 200 feet of the 66 kV relocation outside of the Antelope Substation. Subsequent protocol level surveys have indicated that the burrow is not occupied; however, the area will continue to be monitored for nesting activity.



2. On April 2, SCE notified the CPUC EM and CDFG that a vehicle entered the ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area/ 300-foot buffer for nesting birds) near the horned lark nest at the Antelope Substation expansion area. Although the vehicle came within 30 to 50 feet from the nest, it was reported that the bird continues to incubate the nest. It is unknown if the vehicle is related to the project; however, biological monitors reminded crews to avoid the resource buffer area.
3. Erosion repairs are taking place by both ECORP/Nature's Image and PAR construction. Major repairs needed at Towers 9 and 99 are expected to take place in the next few weeks.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject period for Segment 1 construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives:

None

SEGMENT 2: ANTELOPE-VINCENT

Summary of Activity:

The Notice to Proceed for Segment 2 construction (NTP #14) was issued by the CPUC on September 30, 2008. Segment 2 involves the construction of a new 21.0-mile single-circuit 500 kV transmission line initially to be energized at 220 kV and 0.6 miles of a new 220 kV transmission line connecting SCE's Antelope Substation in the City of Lancaster to the Vincent Substation in incorporated Los Angeles County. Segment 2 construction activities have been completed and the Segment 2 transmission line was energized on December 17th.

1. No work was conducted in Segment 2 during the subject period.
2. The post-construction tour identified several tower locations in which erosion problems are developing due to the recent rain events. Some of the problems observed are rilling, slumping, and incising of tower slopes and pads. Towers 17, 18, 19, 20-37, 39, 40-45, 48-49, 51-59, 60-68, 70-80, 83-85, 88-89, 91-92, and 94 have one or two of these erosion problems present. SCE is working with the contractor's hydrologist to implement erosion repairs at these locations.

Environmental Compliance:

1. Hydroseeding for erosion control has been completed throughout Segment 2. Revegetation is planned for the fall of 2010.
2. Project biologists continued to conduct biological clearance sweeps in advance of anticipated work areas. Several newly identified nests were identified during clearance sweeps, these nests have been added to the nest matrix and resource maps compiled by Burns and McDonnell.
3. SCE submitted a plan for the stabilization, recontouring, and vegetation/construction debris removal and road capping for Tower 34A as conditioned in Variance #64. This plan was approved and the final restoration/recontouring work is scheduled to begin April 6th.

No Non-Compliance Reports were issued for Segment 2 construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):

None

SEGMENT 3A: ANTELOPE-WINDHUB

The NTP for Segment 3A (NTP #17) was issued by the CPUC on October 22, 2008. Segment 3A involves the construction of a new 25.6-mile 500 kV transmission line initially energized at 220 kV connecting SCE's Antelope Substation in the City of Lancaster to the new Windhub Substation on Oak Creek Road in the Tehachapi area of Kern County. The NTP for the new Windhub Substation (NTP #19) was issued by the CPUC on December 1, 2008. Construction of the Segment 3A transmission line has been completed and energization has not been scheduled.

Summary of Activity

1. During the final walk down tour conducted last month, it was observed that the overland travel route used to access Tower 43 (Bean Springs ESA) has been used by off highway vehicles (OHV) leaving deep ruts and impacting the Environmentally Sensitive Area. SCE consulted with CDFG and the CPUC to address ways to minimize further disturbance to the area and installed vertical mulching consisting of Juniper trees removed from the Vincent Substation expansion area. The mulching was completed on Friday, March 18th. An EIR Addendum was approved for the vertical mulching, capping of a portion of the existing roadway, and making this overland route a permanent access for SCE operations and maintenance.

Environmental Compliance:

1. SCE is working to develop a solution for the channel incision that occurred immediately downstream of the rip-rapped stream channel at the Windhub Substation site. Once a plan is developed, it will be submitted to the CPUC.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week for Segment 3A/Windhub construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):

None

SEGMENT 3B: WINDHUB TO HIGHWIND SUBSTATION

The NTP for Segment 3B has not been requested to date. Two related activities were permitted separately by the CPUC. NTP #27 was approved on January 5th for the installation of the Oak Peak Communications Tower and NTP # 28 was approved on February 18th for the Highwind Marshalling Yard.

Summary of Activity

Construction of the Oak Peak Communications Tower continued during the subject period.

Environmental Compliance:

Protocol level surveys for special status species, including desert tortoise, are planned for the spring of 2010.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week for Segment 3B construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):

None

TRTP SEGMENTS 4-11

The SCE Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project was evaluated in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and a Certification of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) was granted by the CPUC on December 17, 2009. Construction activities include the establishment of yards and vegetation removal for the Vincent Substation expansion.

Summary of Activity

1. Construction crews completed the construction of Yard 28, located on Avenue I in Lancaster. SCE is expecting the delivery of materials in the next few weeks.
2. Vegetation removal with hand tools occurred within the Vincent Substation expansion area. No grading permit has been issued by Los Angeles County to date.
3. Two equipment yards are currently in use supporting the geotechnical investigations on the Angeles National Forest (Segments 6 and 11). These are the Rodeo Yard (previously permitted under Segment 2) and the Huntington Drive Yard on SCE right-of-way in Duarte.

Environmental Compliance:

1. During vegetation removal at the Vincent Substation expansion area, an active California thrasher nest was found in a Juniper tree. A 300-foot buffer was put into place and no further work was allowed in this area. Vegetation clearing was suspended until April 6th after the birds successfully fledged from the nest (see Figure 2).
2. An active killdeer nest was reported 100 feet south of the Huntington Drive Yard in Duarte. The CPUC EM has requested that SCE obtain CDFG approval for a resource buffer reduction at this location.
3. During a site visit to the proposed Mesa Yard in Monterey Park, the CPUC EM observed an SCE crew conducting vegetation removal in the area. A memorandum was submitted to SCE seeking an explanation of the observed activities. It was reported by SCE that the vegetation removal activities were related to Operation & Maintenance clearing of the existing transmission line right-of-way; however, no written response has been provided to date.

No Non-Compliance Reports or Project Memoranda were issued during the subject week for TRTP construction activities. Non-Compliance activities for the project to date are summarized in Table 4.

Agency Representatives during Construction (other than CPUC EMs):

None

CONTRACTOR YARDS: ALL SEGMENTS

Contractor Yards are listed below along with a summary of current status.

- 10 Acre Yard - Final clean up and decompaction completed, has not been reseeded.
- Avenue J Yard - Final clean up completed, transferred back to SCE
- Avenue I Yard - Still in use, Segments 2-3
- Rodeo Yard - In use for Segments 6 & 11 geotechnical equipment
- Mojave Yard - Still in use, Segments 2-3
- Highwind Yard - Has not been constructed, Segment 3B
- Yard 28 - Under construction, Segments 4-11
- Huntington Drive Yard - In use for Segments 6 & 11 geotechnical equipment
- Racetrack Yard - Final clean up completed
- Pumpkin Yard - Final clean up completed
- Pottery Yard - Final clean up completed
- Hydrant Yard - Final clean up completed

CPUC NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS) & ANF PERMITTING

Table 1 summarizes the CPUC Notice to Proceed and ANF permitting activity for the Antelope-Pardee Transmission Project, Segments 1, 2, and 3, to date.

TABLE 1
CPUC NTPs & ANF PERMITTING
(Updated 04/08/2010)

NTP #/ Permit	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
CPUC NTPs, Segments 1-3				
<i>For CPUC NTP and Addendum activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 1 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i>				
#26	12/18/09	01/05/10	1	Expansion of Antelope Substation.
CPUC Addendum	12/21/09	01/19/10	1	Permanent AR 19 and access road to Const 34A.
CPUC Addendum	12/21/09	01/19/10	1	Permanent refueling basin at Hydrant Yard.
#27	12/23/09	01/05/10	3B	Oak Peak Communication Site
CPUC Addendum	01/25/10	02/01/10	2	Reclassification of two temporary roads to permanent and relocation of transposition poles.
Revised CPUC Addendum	02/10/10	02/19/10	2	Relocate two previously approved transposition towers from Const 110 to Const 105.
#28	02/10/10	02/18/10	3B	Highwind Marshalling Yard
#29	02/10/10	03/02/10	1	Relocation of the Sagebrush Transmission Line at the Antelope Substation expansion area.
CPUC Addendum	03/17/10	03/26/10	3A	Vertical mulching, capping of a portion of the existing roadway, and making this overland route a permanent access for SCE operations and maintenance to Const 43..
CPUC NTPs Segments 4-11				
#1	01/13/10	02/11/10	4, 5, 10	Yard 28
#2	01/28/10	03/10/10	9	Vincent Substation Expansion
#3	03/09/10	04/01/10	7,8	Rancho Vista Yard
	01/27/10		7	Segment 7 Telecom
	01/27/10		7, 8	Segment 7 and 8 Cell Sites
	03/29/10		7,8	Mesa Materials Storage Yard
ANF PERMTTING – Segment 1, 6 & 11				
	11/29/07	12/14/07	1	Radio Repeater – installation of a temporary radio repeater site on Sierra Pelona Ridge to provide communication during construction activities tied to the project. Improvement installation began Jan. 11
	09/27/07	12/14/07	1	Geotechnical testing – 23 geotechnical borings are authorized on National Forest lands to provide additional information that will be used in the design of the transmission towers. Notice to proceed was signed Jan 31 to begin work the week of Feb. 3
		07/14/08	1	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, from tower 7-3 (near southern Forest boundary) to 16-3 (near Bouquet Reservoir) Phase I.
		09/23/08	1	Removal of the 66 kV conductor within the ANF, Phase II
		10/23/08	1	Construction of the 500 kV transmission line and wreck-out of the 66 kV towers in the ANF, Section 2.

VARIANCE & TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE REQUESTS

Variance Requests and Temporary Extra Workspace (TEWS) Requests submitted to date are summarized in Tables 2 and 3, respectively.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUESTS
(Updated 04/08/2010)

Variance Request	Date Requested	Date Issued	Segment #	Description
Variance Requests, Segments 1-3				
<i>For Variance Request activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 2 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i>				
VR #66	01/11/10	01/19/10	1	Modify the requirements of Mitigation Measure B-1a (Provide Restoration/Compensation for Impacts to Native Vegetation Communities) to fulfill a request from the property owner.
VR #67	01/15/10	01/19/10	3A	Modify requirements of Mitigation Measure B-27b and APMs BIO-2 and BIO-7 to preserve cut Joshua trees onsite instead of off-site disposal to the extent possible for habitat creation purposes.
Variance Requests, Segments 4-11				
VR #1	03/25/10	03/26/10	9-Vincent	Expand grading area of Vincent substation by 15 feet for temporary turn around areas for equipment.

TABLE 3
TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE (TEWS) REQUESTS
(Updated 04/08/2010)

TEWS Request	Date Requested	Date Approved	Segment #	Description
TEWS, Segments 1-3				
<i>For TEWS activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 3 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i>				
TEWS, Segments 4-11				
None to date				

NON-COMPLIANCES & INCIDENTS

A summary of Project Memorandum, Non-Compliance Reports, and other incidents to date is provided in Table 4.

TABLE 4
NON-COMPLIANCES, PROJECT MEMORANDA, AND OTHER INCIDENTS
(Updated 04/08/2010)

Type	Date	Location	Description
Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda & Other Incidents, Segments 1-3			
<i>For Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda & Other Incidents activity on Segments 1-3 prior to 2010, please see Table 4 in Weekly Reports 106-107.</i>			
Non-Compliances, Project Memoranda, & Other Incidents, Segments 4-11			
None to date			

PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 1: Underground relocation of the 66 kV line outside of the Antelope Substation.



Figure 2: Vegetation clearing at the Vincent Substation expansion area. Further vegetation removal is on hold pending CDFG concurrence of a reduced buffer for nesting birds or until birds have fledged.